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REGULATIONS FOR TELEGRAPHIC (OR RADIO) REPORTING  
OF HYDROGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Ministry of Water Conservation  
3 December 1947

Hydrographic stations should comply with the regulations of the Telegraph Administration of the Ministry of Communications in order to secure certifications granting half-price rates for telegrams.

The regular period for making hydrographic reports by telegraph is from 1 June to 30 September; however, under special circumstances it may be extended.

Each designated important hydrographic station should report once each day at 0800 the height of water and volume of flow, and report once each day at 1600 the amount of rainfall [for the preceding 24 hours].

The Ministry of Communications will compile the hydrographic data reported and communicate it daily, including Sundays, to the Central Broadcasting Station for broadcasting.

A sudden rise or fall in the water level shall be reported immediately by telegraph to the offices concerned, including the downstream river defense stations. In case of 3 hours continuous precipitation or a precipitation of more than 30 millimeters in less than 3 hours, the time and amount of precipitation should be telegraphed immediately to the parties concerned.

Telegrams reporting hydrographic data should employ the three-group number system, or code, as follows: the first group of numbers indicates the date and the hour, the second group the height of the water, and the third group the volume of flow. These are preceded by the address. For example, suppose a hydrographic report were made on the 14th of the month at 0800 when the height of the water was 96.59 meters and the flow 4,200 cubic meters per second, then a telegraphic message to Nan-ching would read as follows:

WATER [in roman letters in the original] 3055 Nan-ching, 1408 9659 4200.

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If the height of the water is 100 meters or over, and/or the volume 10,000 cubic meters or more per second, then the number 0001 should be inserted preceding the second and/or third group of numbers of the message respectively, as the case may be, and similarly in other cases as needed.

In reporting the amount of rainfall, the five-group number system or code should be employed as follows: the first and second group of numbers indicate the date and hours of the start and end of the period being reported; the third group indicates the relative degree of the precipitation using one of three groups of numbers, viz., 1838 if heavy or violent, 4883 if light or gentle, and 1627 if moderate; the fourth group indicates the amount of precipitation; the fifth group indicates whether the precipitation is continuing or has stopped, using one of four groups of numbers, viz., 4958 if continuing, 2972 if the rain has stopped, 2548 if it is still cloudy and apt to rain further, or 2532 if the weather has cleared. For example, suppose a station is reporting to Nan-ching concerning the period from 0300 to 0900 on the 14th day of the month, that there was a violent precipitation of 75 millimeters, and it is still continuing, then the telegram should read as follows:

WATER 3055 Nan-ching 1403 1409 1838 0075 4958.

If the same reports as above concerning height and flow of the water and the rainfall are to be combined in one message, the telegram, apart from the address, would contain eight groups of numbers, in the same order as above, viz.:

WATER 3055 Nan-ching 1408 9659 4200 1403 1409 1838 0075 4958.

Each designated hydrographic station in a region is expected to receive from the minor observation stations in the region reports as to rainfall and to report them telegraphically to the Ministry and to other agencies concerned. Such telegrams are to contain the code number 3455 [for "huo" meaning rainfall] following the word WATER and to be dispatched as of 0900 each day. Such a message for the 14th of the month would then read as follows: WATER 3455 Nan-ching 1409, and following this, the code number of the initial character of the name of the substation and the amount of precipitation in millimeters for that station, as explained above, and so for each substation in succession.

The reports of each hydrographic station should be dispatched through the local telegraph office within one half hour after the observations have been taken; no delays are permitted.

Whenever, at times other than during the regular periods for reporting, ice has formed on a river or has begun to form, the fact should be telegraphed at once to the Ministry, using one of the code numbers given below, following the number indicating the height of the water:

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Code Number *</u>
First evidence of freezing	2001
Frozen over, but not strong enough to support a man	2002
Frozen over, and will support a man	2003
Frozen over, and will support a cart and animals	2004
Frozen over, ice jam formed but water still flowing	2005
No increase in thickness of ice	3001
Ice slightly thinner	3002
Ice increasing in thickness	4001
Ice beginning to melt	4002
Ice melting rapidly and breaking up	4003

For example, WATER 3055 Nan-ching 1408 9659 2001.

\*The Chinese Telegraphic Code.

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